

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04001 151544Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
HEW-04 OES-07 AID-05 NSF-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /121 W
-----120385 160258Z /72

R 151457Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7221
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 04001

PASS IO/HDC AND R. BELMONT HEW/OIH

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 12/31/78
TAGS: WHO UR
SUBJECT: EVOLVING SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD WHO

1. HIGHLY PLACED WHO OFFICIAL TOLD MISOFF YESTERDAY
THAT USSR SEEMS TO BE TAKING A MUCH HARDER LINE RECENTLY
TOWARD WHO AND PARTICULARLY DG MAHLER PERSONALLY.

2. IN A MEETING IN NEPAL, DR ORLOV, WHO MALARIA CONSULTANT
FOR SEARO, HARANGUED AT SOME LENGTH ADG FURTH, WHOM HE
HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY MET, ABOUT MAHLER'S ALLEGED SHORT-
COMINGS. INTER ALIA HE ACCUSED MAHLER OF INFLUENCING THE
LDC'S TO ADOPT WHA 29.48 BECAUSE OF HIS QUOTE SCANDINAVIAN
SOCIAL WELFARE IDEAS UNQUOTE. THOUGH NO OTHER DETAILS
WERE GIVEN, THE ATTACK WAS BITTER AND REPRESENTED IN THE
OPINION OF FURTH MOSCOW'S, NOT DR ORLOV'S, OPINION.

3. DR MAHLER RECENTLY HAD AN UNUSUALLY HARSH DRESSING-
DOWN BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA REGARDING THE
PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF SOVIET UNDERREPRESENTATION IN THE
WHO SECRETARIAT. MAHLER REPLIED THAT DURING THIS PERIOD
OF DECLINING HDQ STAFF (C.F. WHA 29.48) HE WOULD FEEL HE
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WAS DOING WELL IF HE COULD KEEP THE CURRENT SOVIET
REPRESENTATION CONSTANT. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED COLDLY
THAT HE EXPECTED MUCH MORE THAN THAT: NAMELY, A SPECIFIC
WRITTEN PLAN BY THE SECRETARIAT HOW MANY MORE RUSSIANS
WOULD BE HIRED. MAHLER ALLEGEDLY BECAME QUITE IRRITATED
BY THIS APPROACH AND ABRUPTLY TERMINATED THE MEETING.

4. MAHLER HAS BEEN INVITED TO MOSCOW IN APRIL FOR

CONSULTATIONS. APPARENTLY HE PREDICTED THIS PLOY IN DECEMBER, STATING TO HIS ASSOCIATES THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD INVITE HIM TO MOSCOW BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY TO SET HIM STRAIGHT ON SOVIET POLICY AND DEMANDS.

5. WHO OFFICIAL PREDICTED THAT SOVIETS MAY VOTE AGAINST MAHLER, OR AT LEAST ABSTAIN IN THE COMING ASSEMBLY VOTE ON HIS RENOMINATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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